



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health & Human Services  
Department of Developmental Services  
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**Jane F. Ryder**  
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**TO:** Providers of Adult Long-Term Residential, Shared Living, and Certain Support Services

**DT:** April 2, 2020

**FR:** Nick Dantzer, Deputy Commissioner for Administration and Finance, Department of Developmental Services (DDS)

**CC:** Jane F. Ryder, Commissioner, Department of Developmental Services (DDS)

**RE:** 10% Rate Enhancement Payment

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As a result of the public health emergency related to COVID-19, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is working closely with the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) to provide financial relief to health and human services providers who are experiencing financial distress due to increased costs and the closure of programs. This memo summarizes the steps DDS is taking to administer the 10% Provider Enhancement Payments in accordance with Executive Order 20 signed on March 30, 2020 by Governor Baker and EOHHS Administrative Bulletin 20-11 effective April 2, 2020.

DDS will issue a monthly enhancement payment for 4 consecutive months, and the first payment will apply to March services. This payment is in addition to your regular monthly billing and represents 10% of the average monthly payment made to your organization for the activity codes noted below (Tier 1 and Tier 2 services). The Department used payments made for services rendered in November, December, and January to calculate your average monthly payment.

Payments will be centrally processed for March not later than April 3, and in May, June, and July by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. You will receive one lump sum payment that aggregates enhancements for all your eligible contracts. Payments will be labeled "COVID-19 Fiscal Relief" on VendorWeb/remittance advices. Your organization does not have to take any action to release these payments.

**Activity Codes and Services Eligible for 10% Provider Enhancement Payment:**

3153/3751	Adult Long-Term Residential Services (includes ABI)
3150/3752	Placement/Shared Living (includes ABI)
3182	Emergency Stabilization Residential
3700	Family Navigation
3703	Individualized Home Supports
3712	Emergency Stabilization in Caregiver's Home
3731	Respite in Recipients Home
3770	Family Support Centers
3771	Cultural Linguistic Family Support Centers
3772	Autism Support Centers
3773	Intensive Flexible Family Support Services
3774	Medically Complex Programs
3798	In Home Supports

**Contract Amendments:**

In addition, DDS will be approving amendments for Residential Services and other programs for changes unrelated to COVID-19. The purpose of the 10% enhancement is to cover increasing provider costs related to COVID-19. Contract amendments may be approved:

- For changes that occurred prior to 3/10/20 (date of declared State of Emergency)
- Home re-slotting due to vacancies that occurred prior to 3/10/20
- To recognize new placements (no date restriction)
- New sites opening during the remainder of the fiscal year

Please note, Community-Based Day Supports, Individual Supported Employment, Group Supported Employment, and Day Habilitation Supplemental programs will *not* receive 10% enhanced payments. However, these services are eligible to receive an 80% Administrative Payment if your organization has developed or is planning to develop remote services that continue to support and engage individuals. Additional information on this payment and how it will be implemented for each service listed above will be released after April 6.

If you have any questions, please contact Gerry Wright at [Gerald.J.Wright@mass.gov](mailto:Gerald.J.Wright@mass.gov) or Dylan Lattimore at [Dylan.Lattimore@mass.gov](mailto:Dylan.Lattimore@mass.gov).

On behalf of the Department of Developmental Services, thank you for your dedication and partnership as we work together to care for the critical needs and supports of the individuals in our care.